

Foster Grandparents

Accomplishment Report

October 1999 - September 2000

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- Learn and Serve America, which helps link community service and learning objectives for youth from kindergarten through college as well as youth in community-based organizations; and
- The National Senior Service Corps (Senior Corps), the network of programs that helps Americans age 55 and older use their skills and experience in service opportunities that address the needs of their communities. Senior Corps includes the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Foster Grandparent Program, and Senior Companion Program.

Upon request, this material will be made available in alternative formats for people with disabilities.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction.....	1
Summary of Foster Grandparent Program Accomplishments	1
Background.....	2
Study Methodology.....	3
Foster Grandparent Program Characteristics.....	3
Health and Nutrition	4
Human Needs Services	4
Education	4
Public Safety	4
Foster Grandparent Participation by Program Emphasis Area.....	5
Volunteer Hours Spent by Program Emphasis Area.....	6
Sites of Foster Grandparent Service (Volunteer Stations).....	7
Reasons that Community Agencies Serve as Placement Sites for Foster Grandparents	8
Accomplishments by Program Emphasis Area.....	9
Education	9
Human Needs Services	11
Health and Nutrition	12
Public Safety	15
Conclusions.....	16
Appendix: Study Methodology.....	18

TABLE OF FIGURES

	Page
Figure 1. Percentage of FGP Service by Program Emphasis Area.....	5
Figure 2. Volunteer Hours Spent by Program Emphasis Area	6
Figure 3. Sites of Foster Grandparent Service (Volunteer Stations)	7
Figure 4. Reasons that Community Agencies Serve as Placement Sites.....	8

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the community service accomplishments from all Foster Grandparent Projects for the period between October 1, 1999, and September 30, 2000, as reported on the Foster Grandparent Program accomplishment survey. The survey sample consisted of a census of all 330 FGP projects with a random selection of 1,193 community organizations serving as volunteer stations within those projects. The accomplishments are grouped within four of the Corporation for National Service's program emphasis areas: Health and Nutrition, Human Needs Services, Education, and Public Safety.¹

SUMMARY OF FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS

This summary of the overall Foster Grandparent Program accomplishments was drawn from information about accomplishments from all 330 Foster Grandparent Projects that were active between October 1, 1999 and September 30, 2000 (referred to in this report as the *current reporting year*). During this period, the Foster Grandparents:

- Provided constructive guidance and feedback to help 156,000 children to make productive choices.
- Tutored 92,000 students (K-12).
- Provided supportive services to 43,000 learning-disabled elementary students (K-6).
- Contributed to a productive classroom environment, benefiting 71,000 children in Head Start programs.
- Provided supportive assistance in 15,000 kindergarten through sixth grade classrooms for 164,000 students.
- Provided aid, assistance, and supportive counsel to 9,600 abused/neglected children and their families.
- Participated in homeless programs and services, benefiting 12,000 children.
- Visited with/nurtured 53,000 hospitalized children.
- Provided non-residential and clinic support services to 12,000 children with mental health problems, including emotionally impaired and autistic children.
- Provided one-on-one support and nurturing to 47,000 youth offenders/ex-offenders.
- Helped 10,000 children of families with violence.
- Provided supportive services, rehabilitation, therapy, and exercise to 12,000 children with physical disabilities.

¹ The scope of information requested on the survey is not exhaustive, and not every accomplishment has been captured.

- Provided one-on-one services on specific topics such as parenting skills, child health, and safety to 10,000 teen parents.
- Provided support/services for pre-natal care and family planning programs, benefiting 72,000 mothers.
- Nurtured 63,000 infants by feeding, cradling, singing, rocking, etc.
- Cared for 7,000 infants and young children who remain hospitalized because of lack of non-institutional placement alternatives.

BACKGROUND

The Foster Grandparent Program began in August 1965, as a national demonstration effort. Since 1993, the Foster Grandparent Program has been administered by the Corporation for National Service.

The Foster Grandparent Program is authorized under Title II, Part B, of the Domestic Volunteer Service Act of 1973, as amended (Public Law 93-113). The Foster Grandparent Program provides grants to qualified agencies and organizations for the dual purpose of (1) engaging persons 60 and older, particularly those with limited incomes, in volunteer service to meet critical community needs; and (2) to provide a high quality experience that will enrich the lives of the volunteers. Program funds are used to support Foster Grandparents in providing supportive, person to person service to children with exceptional or special needs.

Foster Grandparents serve in community organizations such as schools, hospitals, Head Start programs, and youth centers. Foster Grandparents offer emotional support to children who have been abused or neglected, mentor troubled teenagers and young parents, and care for premature infants and children with physical disabilities. Their personal attention is directed toward helping these young people grow, gain self-esteem and confidence, and become full and productive members of society. In the process, Foster Grandparents strengthen communities by providing youth services that community budgets cannot afford and by building bridges across generations. Foster Grandparents meet income eligibility requirements, serve an average of 20 hours per week, and receive reimbursements to offset expenses associated with serving.

The Foster Grandparent Program is one of three national service programs that comprise the National Senior Service Corps. The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP), Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), and the Senior Companion Program (SCP) were crafted on the belief that senior volunteers are valuable resources in meeting community needs.

STUDY METHODOLOGY

The accomplishments described in this report were derived from the survey form entitled, “Meeting Community Needs: A Survey of the Foster Grandparent Program’s (FGP) Activities, Inputs, and Accomplishments,” conducted by Aguirre International, an independent social science research firm, under contract to the Corporation for National Service.

This survey covers four priority areas, (Health/Nutrition, Human Needs Services, Education, and Public Safety) which encompass 32 Basic Human Needs (BHN) codes and 61 specific accomplishment items. During the initial accomplishment study in 1998, stakeholders determined that the best way to gather information about program accomplishments was to survey volunteer stations (i.e., the local community agencies where volunteers are placed and supervised within the project). Therefore, in order to develop the sampling frame for the 2000 study, station lists were requested from all 330 Foster Grandparent Program projects. Over 90 percent of the lists were received.

Next, using a simple random sampling (SRS) procedure, 1,193 community agencies where Foster Grandparents are stationed were selected from these lists for the study. Surveys for the stations selected were sent to project directors, who were asked to send copies of the survey to the station coordinator and to work cooperatively with station supervisors to ensure that the survey was answered completely and accurately. The survey achieved a 93 percent response rate (1022 of 1101 surveys were completed and returned)². The results of the survey reflect the entire population with 95 percent confidence (+ or - 3 percent standard error). This means that the estimates in this report have a high degree of precision.

FOSTER GRANDPARENT PROGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

This section describes selected characteristics of the Foster Grandparent projects for the current reporting year, including, the percentage of volunteers engaged in four program emphasis areas (Health and Nutrition, Human Needs Services, Education, and Public Safety); the percentage of children served by Foster Grandparents; and the percentage of volunteer hours served in each program emphasis area.

While specific examples of the four program emphasis areas are discussed in more detail below, the following discussion will give the reader an idea of some of the kinds of activities that take place within each of the four program emphasis areas.

² The final response rate excludes 92 closed or inactive stations.

Health and Nutrition

Health and Nutrition activities may include supportive roles in the delivery of health services; participation in preventive health care programs for teen mothers and special needs children; various activities in the area of child mental health and mental retardation; participation in prevention and rehabilitation programs for substance abuse; services to children with physical disabilities; services to terminally ill children; care for boarder babies; and services to children with HIV or AIDS.

Human Needs Services

Human Needs Services include such activities as supportive roles in crisis intervention services with children; participation in programs and services for children and families experiencing housing crises; providing guidance and leadership through mentoring youth; providing temporary relief from the stresses of caregiving through short-term intermittent assistance to an adult who is a primary caregiver for a child with disabilities; and supportive roles in services to pregnant teens and teen parents.

Education

Education activities may consist of serving special needs children and youth in kindergarten through twelfth grade classrooms; participating in educational programs for children who are physically and/or mentally disabled; tutoring special needs school children in grades K-12 in a variety of academic subjects; participating in programs for developing skills or trades for seventh through twelfth grade special needs students; and providing services to Head Start programs.

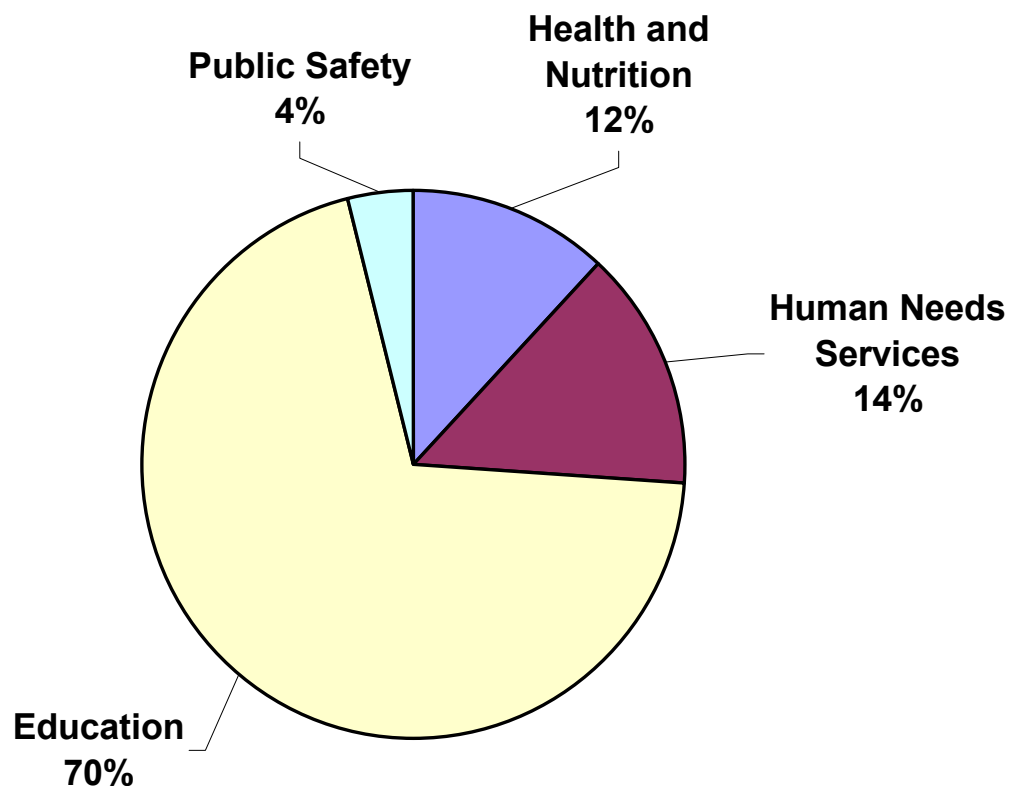
Public Safety

Foster Grandparents may also participate in rehabilitation services for youth offenders; provide aid, assistance and counsel to abused and neglected children and their families; provide aid, assistance, and counsel for child victims of family violence; and participate in efforts which promote child safety.

FOSTER GRANDPARENT PARTICIPATION BY PROGRAM EMPHASIS AREA

During the reporting year, almost 29,000 Foster Grandparents³ actively participated in the four program emphasis areas. Over this period, 70 percent of the Foster Grandparents served in the program emphasis area of Education; 14 percent in the area of Human Needs Services; 12 percent in the Health and Nutrition area. The remaining 4 percent of the Foster Grandparents served in the area of Public Safety (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Percentage of Foster Grandparent Service by Program Emphasis Area

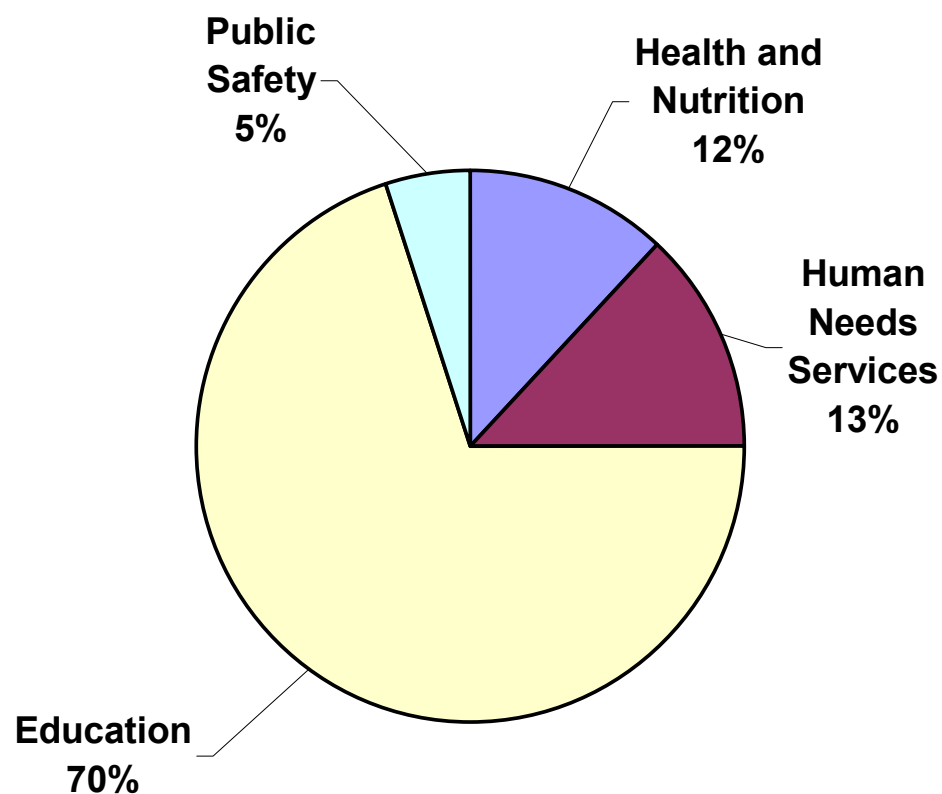


³ Source: 1999 Project Profiles and Volunteer Activities Survey, National Senior Service Corps.

VOLUNTEER HOURS SPENT BY PROGRAM EMPHASIS AREA

Foster Grandparents served over 26 million hours⁴ in the four program emphasis areas. Over two-thirds of the hours (70 percent) were spent in the area of Education. Human Needs Services tallied 13 percent of the volunteer hours, and 12 percent of the volunteer hours were spent in the Health and Nutrition area. Public Safety accounted for 5 percent of the volunteer hours (see Figure 2).

Figure 2. Volunteer Hours Spent by Program Emphasis Area



⁴ Source: 1999 Project Profile and Volunteer Activities Survey, National Senior Service Corps.

SITES OF FOSTER GRANDPARENT SERVICE (VOLUNTEER STATIONS)

Most of the project activities of the Foster Grandparents (34 percent) were conducted in public and private elementary schools. The next five most active sites were Head Start (16 percent); pre-elementary day care programs (13 percent); non-Head Start educational pre-schools (8 percent); public and private middle schools (5 percent); and other educational stations (4 percent). Other locations such as before and after school care, juvenile correctional agencies, hospitals/medical centers, other social services/human needs agencies, and transitional shelters, comprised 3 percent or fewer of the sites to total 19 percent of the volunteer stations. (See Figure 3).

Figure 3. Sites of Foster Grandparent Service (Volunteer Stations)

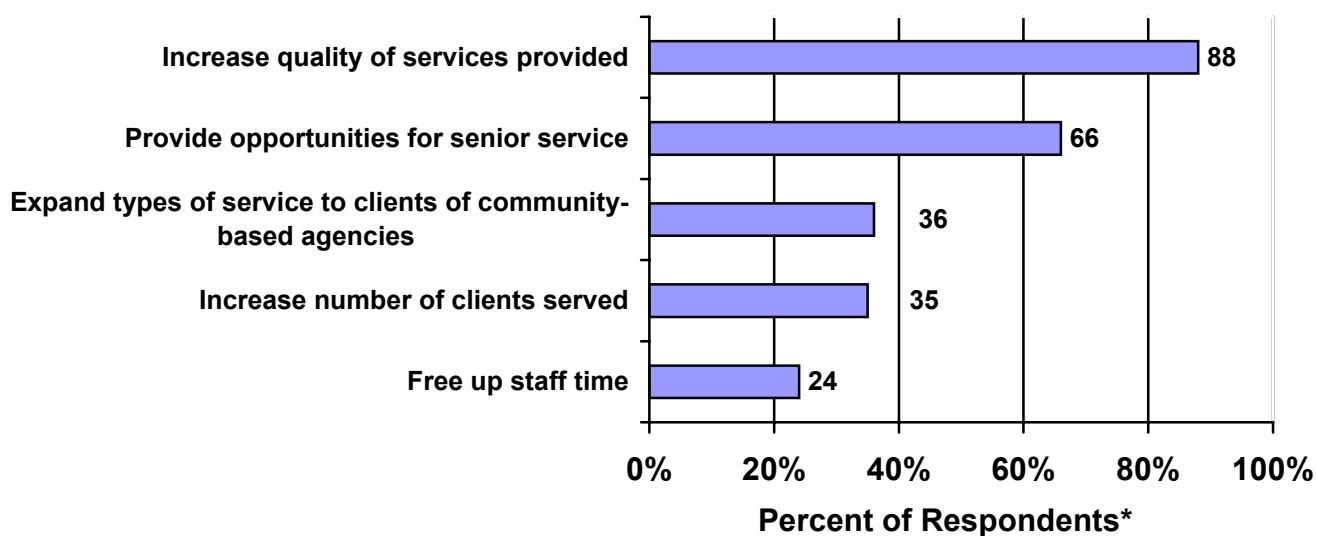
<u>Site Type</u>	<u>Percent*</u>
Public/Private Schools (K-6/Elementary)	34%
Head Start	16%
Day Care (Pre-Elementary) Programs	13%
Non-Head Start Educational Pre-School	8%
Public/Private Schools (Middle School/Junior High School)	5%
Other Educational Stations	4%
Before and After School Care	3%
Juvenile Correctional Agencies	2%
Hospital/Medical Center/Clinic	2%
Other Social Services/Human Needs Agencies	2%
Transitional Shelters/Centers (Homeless, Battered, etc.)	2%
Public/Private Schools (Senior High School)	2%
Residential Long-Term Care Programs (MH/MR/DD)	1%
Teen Pregnancy/ Teen Parenting Program	1%
Other Health Care Organizations	1%
Native American Schools	1%
Non-Residential Developmental Disability/Rehabilitation Centers	1%
Other FGP Stations	1%

*Does not equal 100 percent due to rounding.

REASONS THAT COMMUNITY AGENCIES SERVE AS PLACEMENT SITES FOR FOSTER GRANDPARENTS

Community agencies have a wide range of reasons for hosting Senior volunteers. The majority (88 percent) of the survey respondents noted that their organization chose to serve as a volunteer station to increase the quality of services provided to clients. The next most frequently selected reasons were to provide opportunities for Foster Grandparents and to expand types of services offered to clients. One respondent noted that the reason for serving as a volunteer station was “To offer our school age children the benefit of a grandparent's influence in their lives.” Other comments also indicated the importance of the intergenerational aspects of the Foster Grandparent program, which benefit both children and seniors, along with the ability of volunteers to provide individual attention that might not be available otherwise. Figure 4 below provides the percentages of responses in each category.

Figure 4. Reasons that Community Agencies Serve as Placement Sites



*Respondents could select all answers that applied to them, therefore percentages total more than 100%.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS BY PROGRAM EMPHASIS AREA

The following information on the accomplishments of Foster Grandparents was drawn from responses to the survey form completed by Foster Grandparent Station Supervisors and their FGP Project Directors.

Below are detailed accomplishments for the Foster Grandparent Program in the four program emphasis areas: Education, Human Needs Services, Health and Nutrition, and Public Safety.

Education

Of the over 26 million hours⁵ served by Foster Grandparents, it is estimated that more than two-thirds (70 percent) were spent in the area of education. The estimated dollar value of the services provided by the Foster Grandparents in the area of Education ranged from \$93.7 million (based on the federal minimum hourly wage of \$5.15) to over \$280 million (based on the Independent Sector's valuation of the equivalent hourly wage for volunteers of \$15.39)⁶.

Public and Private Elementary Schools were the location of most of the Education services provided by Foster Grandparents (40 percent). Other locations included: Head Start (18 percent); day care programs (14 percent); non-Head Start educational preschools (9 percent); public and private middle schools/junior high schools, (5 percent); and other educational stations (4 percent). Other locations such as public and private senior high schools, before and after school care, and juvenile correctional agencies, comprised less than 3 percent each, totaling 10 percent of the locations.

Accomplishments in Education include:

- **Tutoring and Child Literacy: 6,684 Foster Grandparents spent 3.6 million hours providing services in this area.**
 - Tutored 92,370 students (K-12)
 - Provided tutoring on reading to 73,336 students
 - Provided information on tutoring programs to 11,773 children

⁵ Source: 1999 Project Profile and Volunteer Activity Survey, conducted by the Corporation for National Service.

⁶ Independent Sector is a national coalition of voluntary organizations, foundations, and corporate giving programs. Independent Sector conducts research on the size and state of the non-profit sector, including this valuation of volunteer time. Information about this organization can be found on its website at <http://www.indepsec.org>.

Education Accomplishments continued:

- **Job Preparedness/Vocational Education: 190 Foster Grandparents spent 168,000 hours providing services in this area.**
 - Assisted in job skills training through 181 educational programs affecting 770 students such as youth offenders
- **Elementary Education: 8,971 Foster Grandparents spent 5.6 million hours providing services in this area.**
 - Provided supportive assistance in 15,707 kindergarten through sixth grade classrooms for 164,761 students
 - Served 104,627 students through one-to-one relationships (K- 6th)
- **Secondary Education: 497 Foster Grandparents spent 374,000 hours providing services in this area.**
 - Provided supportive assistance in classrooms to 8,418 students (7th - 12th grade)
 - Served 26,762 students through one to one relationships (7th - 12th grade)
 - Served at extracurricular activities and clubs, physical education, physical fitness, and school sports programs benefiting 2,497 students (7th - 12th grade)
- **Special Education: 3,806 Foster Grandparents spent 2.4 million hours providing services in this area.**
 - Provided supportive services to 43,420 learning disabled elementary students (K - 6th)
 - Provided supportive services to 5,663 learning disabled secondary students (7th - 12th)
 - Participated in and assisted 980 other special education programs for 23,972 special education students (K - 12th grade)
- **ESL: 563 Foster Grandparents spent 282,000 hours providing services in this area.**
 - Tutored 5,605 students whose performance is adversely affected by a language barrier
- **Head Start: 6,079 Foster Grandparents spent 3.8 million hours providing services in this area.**
 - Contributed to a productive classroom environment benefiting 71,759 children in Head Start programs
 - Helped to develop social and behavioral skills for 175,518 children in Head Start
 - Provided emotional support and nurturing to 177,690 children in Head Start
 - Provided information on Head Start programs to 152,910 parents and/or children

Education Accomplishments continued:

- Provided supportive services to 188,260 children in Head Start, including child development and school readiness activities, meals, nutritional information, and monitoring child health status
- **GED/Dropouts: 68 Foster Grandparents spent 17,000 hours providing services in this area.**
 - Provided tutoring and assistance to 862 students working toward a GED
- **Pre-Elementary Day Care: 6,145 Foster Grandparents spent 4.4 million hours providing services in this area.**
 - Provided support services to 11,404 pre-elementary learning and day care programs for 118,404 children

Human Needs Services

The estimated dollar value of the services provided by the Foster Grandparents in the area of Human Needs Services ranged from \$17.4 million (based on the federal minimum hourly wage of \$5.15) to \$52 million (based on the Independent Sector's valuation of the equivalent hourly wage for volunteers of \$15.39).

In the Human Needs Services area, the locations of the services were widespread: public and private elementary schools (28 percent); day care programs (13 percent); non-Head Start educational pre-school (8 percent); transitional shelters and centers (8 percent); before and after-school care (6 percent); Head Start (6 percent); other social services/human needs agencies (5 percent); public and private middle schools/junior high schools (4 percent); public and private senior high schools (4 percent); other educational stations (4 percent); and teen pregnancy/teen parenting programs (4 percent). Other locations, including juvenile correctional agencies, other health care organizations, and hospitals/medical centers and clinics comprised less than 3 percent each, totaling 10 percent of Human Needs Services sites.

Accomplishments in Human Needs Services include:

- **Mentoring: 5,217 Foster Grandparents spent 2.8 million hours providing services in this area.**
 - Modeled prosocial behaviors (encouraging new activities, making individual contributions) for 289,387 children, youth and young adults
 - Provided constructive guidance and feedback to help 156,359 children make productive choices
 - Provided nurturing and support to 186,931 children, youth, and young adults
- **Teen Pregnancy/Parental Support and Education: 353 Foster Grandparents spent 266,000 hours providing services in this area.**
 - Provided support services to 11,394 teen mothers and fathers
 - Provided one-on-one services on specific topics such as parenting skills, child health, and safety to 10,452 teen parents
- **Homeless: 336 Foster Grandparents spent 261,000 hours providing services in this area.**
 - Participated in homeless programs and services benefiting 12,139 children
- **Crisis and Intervention: 279 Foster Grandparents spent 159,000 hours providing services in this area.**
 - Intervened (in person) in 11,749 crises affecting 14,861 children and youth
- **Respite: 108 Foster Grandparents spent 55,000 hours providing services in this area.**
 - Provided respite for 402 caregivers of special needs children

Health and Nutrition

The estimated dollar value of the services provided by the Foster Grandparents in the area of Health and Nutrition ranged from \$16 million (based on the federal minimum hourly wage of \$5.15) to \$48 million (based on the Independent Sector's valuation of the equivalent hourly wage for volunteers of \$15.39).

Activities in the Health and Nutrition area took place in a variety of locations: hospital, medical center or clinic (14 percent); public and private elementary schools (9 percent); residential long-term care programs (9 percent); non-residential developmental disability/rehabilitation centers (9 percent); other educational stations (9 percent); day-care programs (8 percent); non-Head Start educational pre-schools (7 percent); other social services/human needs agencies (5 percent); and other health care organizations (5 percent). Other sites, such as public or private

senior high schools, non-residential mental health programs, and before and after school care, comprised less than 5 percent each, totaling 25 percent of the Health and Nutrition sites.

Accomplishments in Health and Nutrition include:

- **Delivery of Health Services: 939 Foster Grandparents spent 639,000 hours providing services in this area.**
 - Provided supportive or nurturing services at a clinic, hospital, hospice, or mobile-unit to 277,167 children, such as those who are significantly medically impaired or terminally ill
 - Provided information on the delivery of health services to 14,616 parents and/or children
 - Helped with preparation for and recovery from operations for 30,396 children
 - Nurtured 63,193 infants by feeding, cradling, singing, rocking, etc.
 - Visited with/nurtured 53,340 hospitalized children
- **Maternal/Child Health Services: 232 Foster Grandparents spent 170,000 hours providing services in this area.**
 - Provided support/services for post-natal care and well-child clinics benefiting 279,352 children
 - Provided support/services for pre-natal care and family planning programs benefiting 72,186 mothers
- **Mental Health: 682 Foster Grandparents spent 635,000 hours providing services in this area.**
 - Provided non-residential and clinic support services to 12,508 children with mental health issues, including emotionally impaired and autistic children
 - Provided residential mental health support services to 18,671 children with mental health issues
- **Mental Retardation: 1,653 Foster Grandparents spent 1.2 million hours providing services in this area.**
 - Provided residential and non-residential supportive services to 9,676 mentally retarded/developmentally disabled children

Health and Nutrition Accomplishments continued:

- **Substance Abuse: 375 Foster Grandparents spent 260,000 hours providing services in this area.**
 - Served 25,648 drug or alcohol affected infants
 - Served 46,622 children and teens who were alcohol addicted
 - Provided supportive services through rehabilitation programs for 8,624 young alcoholics and drug abusers and their families
- **Physical Disabilities Programs: 829 Foster Grandparents spent 487,000 hours providing services in this area.**
 - Provided supportive services, rehabilitation, therapy, and exercise to 12,879 children with physical disabilities
 - Assisted during Special Olympics benefiting 379 Special Olympic participants
- **In-Home Care: 147 Foster Grandparents spent 103,000 hours providing services in this area.**
 - Participated in supportive health and social services to 1,618 children needing long term care in the home
- **Hospice/Terminally Ill: 133 Foster Grandparents spent 34,000 hours providing services in this area.**
 - Provided nurturing and support to 3,468 terminally ill children and their parents
- **Boarder Babies: 106 Foster Grandparents spent 88,000 hours providing services in this area.**
 - Cared for 7,088 infants and young children who remain hospitalized because of lack of non-institutional placement alternatives
- **HIV/AIDS: 219 Foster Grandparents spent 103,000 hours providing services in this area.**
 - Cared for 3,686 Boarder Babies infected with HIV/AIDS
 - Provided nurturing and support for 4,104 AIDS and HIV positive children
 - Provided support services to 143 children with HIV/AIDS at hospices, health care institutions, and in the home

Public Safety

The estimated dollar value of the services provided by the Foster Grandparents in the area of Public Safety ranged from \$6.6 million (based on the federal minimum hourly wage of \$5.15) to \$20 million (based on the Independent Sector's valuation of the equivalent hourly wage for volunteers of \$15.39).

The largest percentage of Public Safety activities supported by the Foster Grandparent stations took place in the areas of juvenile correction agencies (24 percent); day care programs (10 percent); Head Start (9 percent); public and private kindergarten through sixth grade/elementary schools (8 percent); non-Head Start educational pre-school (8 percent); before and after school care (6 percent); other Foster Grandparent stations (6 percent); transitional shelters (4 percent); and other educational stations (4 percent). The remaining locations, such as other social service agencies, public or private senior high schools, courts, and public and private middle schools and junior high schools comprised less than 4 percent each, totaling 22 percent of the sites.

Accomplishments in Public Safety include:

- **Offender/Ex-Offender Services/Rehabilitation: 845 Foster Grandparents spent 725,000 hours providing services in this area.**
 - Provided one-on-one support and nurturing to 47,039 youth offenders/ex-offenders.
 - Mentored 15,039 youth offenders/ex-offenders.
- **Child Abuse/Neglect: 309 Foster Grandparents spent 159,000 hours providing services in this area.**
 - Provided aid and counsel to 9,653 abused/neglected children and their families
 - Provided information or referrals to 704 vulnerable parents of FGP child in prevention and awareness of child abuse
- **Family Violence: 231 Foster Grandparents spent 147,000 hours providing services in this area.**
 - Helped 10,207 children of families with violence
 - Provided information on family violence to 3,819 parents and/or children
- **Safe Children and Youth: 468 Foster Grandparents spent 215,000 hours providing services in this area.**
 - Provided information on safety to 9,474 parents and/or children
 - Helped 19,651 children/youth with safety issues

CONCLUSIONS

According to its mission statement, the Foster Grandparent Program was designed to meet the dual purpose of engaging persons 60 and older, particularly those with limited incomes, in volunteer service to meet critical community needs; and providing a high quality experience that will enrich the lives of the volunteers. Program funds are used to support Foster Grandparents in providing supportive, person to person service to children with exceptional or special needs.⁷

The findings from the Foster Grandparents Program accomplishment survey demonstrate that the Foster Grandparent Program is achieving its purpose of meeting critical community needs, providing volunteer opportunities, and serving children with exceptional or special needs.

In hospitals and foster care institutions, Foster Grandparents nurture and care for infants and young children. As a regular presence in schools and classrooms, they help children reach their academic potential. By developing intergenerational friendships and acting as role models, Foster Grandparents provide children and teens with guidance and support, instilling prosocial behaviors that foster cooperation and community. They mentor and counsel youthful offenders, helping them to make positive life choices. Foster Grandparents watch over neglected children, shelter those without homes, and safeguard those in violent circumstances.

Foster Grandparents enable children with exceptional or special needs to succeed in education, lead active lives, and become more independent. They also support the parents and caregivers of children with special needs, providing respite and much-needed support. In addition, they provide many other parents with assistance, information, and guidance to ensure that children are raised in healthy and enriching environments. Through the activities and interventions of Foster Grandparents, many needs are met and many lives enriched.

⁷ Federal Register, p.14126. Vol. 64, No.56, 1999.

APPENDIX: STUDY METHODOLOGY

The accomplishments described in this report were derived from the survey form entitled, “Meeting Community Needs: A Survey of the Foster Grandparent Program’s (FGP) Activities, Inputs, and Accomplishments,” conducted by Aguirre International, an independent social science research firm, under contract to the Corporation for National Service.⁸ This survey covers four priority areas, (Health/Nutrition, Human Needs Services, Education, and Public Safety) which encompass 32 Basic Human Needs (BHN) codes and 61 specific accomplishment items.

During the initial accomplishment study in 1998, stakeholders determined that the best way to gather information about program accomplishments was to survey volunteer stations (i.e., the local community agencies where volunteers are placed and supervised within the project). Therefore, in order to develop the sampling frame for the 2000 study, station lists were requested from all 330 Foster Grandparent Program projects. Over 90 percent of the lists were received. Next, using a simple random sampling (SRS) procedure, 1,193 community agencies where Foster Grandparents are stationed were selected from these lists for the study. The goal of the sampling strategy was to randomly select a portion of all the stations under study in such a manner that the characteristics of the sample had a very high probability of accurately reflecting the characteristics of Foster Grandparent Program stations nationally.

Aguirre International administered the survey by mail. Surveys for the stations selected were sent to project directors, who were asked to send the stations’ copies of the survey to the station coordinator and to make either a phone or in-person appointment to review the survey. Project directors worked cooperatively with station supervisors to ensure that the survey was answered completely and accurately. Aguirre International staff worked with project directors to ensure that station surveys were returned and that the data provided was reasonable and complete. The survey achieved a 93 percent response rate (1022/1101 surveys were completed and returned)⁹. This is well above our survey goal of 80 percent.

In order to produce national estimates presented in this report, a weighting procedure was used which took into account the response rate for the surveys and the probability that a given station

⁸ Through this survey, project sponsors quantify the contributions that Foster Grandparent Program volunteers make toward meeting critical community needs. Counts of service performed are collected using a standard survey form that allows for aggregating data at the national level. Station supervisors and/or project directors complete the forms, based on their own systems for keeping records of activities and accomplishments. The data are subject to verification, edit checks, range checks, and other tests of reasonableness by the research contractor. However, the data are self-reported by grantees and station supervisors, and therefore dependent on the accuracy and completeness of the tracking systems they maintain. In most cases, the data are not subject to audit or other, less formal reviews by independent investigators. The Corporation for National Service has provided extensive technical assistance in accomplishment reporting.

⁹ The final response rate excludes 92 closed or inactive stations.

would be included in the sample¹⁰ (sampling probability). Applying the weight to each national Foster Grandparent stations' data and aggregating the data across all projects provided the weighted data that is incorporated in this report.

The results of the survey reflect the entire population with 95 percent confidence (+ or - 3 percent standard error). This means that the estimates in this report have a high degree of precision.

¹⁰ For example, if there are 3000 FGP stations and a sample of 1000 stations is drawn, then the probability that a given station will be drawn is 1 out of 3 or 33%. If 800 of the 1000 stations sampled returned their surveys then the probability of inclusion was 80% or 0.80. Multiplying these two numbers provides the sampling probability. The sampling weight applied to each station would be the inverse of the sampling probability or $1/(.33*.80)$. Therefore the weight for these stations would be 3.79.